

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for cleaning a paint roller cover, said apparatus comprising:

5 an enclosure comprising an aperture dimensioned to receive the paint roller cover therethrough, wherein cooperative engagement of said enclosure with a collection reservoir yields a slot through which a pressurized cleaning fluid may be directed for contacting the paint roller cover for removal of
10 paint therefrom.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said enclosure comprises a gutter means carried therewithin, said gutter means adapted to capture, collect, and channel into said collection reservoir at
15 least a portion of cleaning fluid and paint forcefully propelled from the paint roller cover.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said enclosure comprises a support cradle disposed thereon, said support cradle adapted
20 to support at least a portion of a wire support rod extending from a rotatable wire frame upon which the paint roller cover is engaged.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said support cradle comprises a removably securable cover comprising a conformable material disposed therewithin for effectively clamping the wire support rod therebetween and thus, provide the hands-free support of a paint roller assembly thereby.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said enclosure is approximately semi-elliptically shaped.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said enclosure comprises a textured scrubbing surface disposed over at least a portion of the inner surface of said enclosure, said textured scrubbing surface enabling a user of said apparatus to engage and scrub the paint roller cover thereover during the cleaning process, or enable the paint roller cover to contact said textured scrubbing surface during rapid rotation of the paint roller cover as a result of the pressurized cleaning fluid directed thereover, and thus enable the scrubbing thereof.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said enclosure comprises scrubbing bristles disposed over at least a portion of the inner surface of said enclosure, said scrubbing bristles enabling a user of said apparatus to engage and scrub the paint roller

cover thereover during the cleaning process, or enable the paint roller cover to contact said scrubbing bristles during rapid rotation of the paint roller cover as a result of the pressurized cleaning fluid directed thereover, and thus enable
5 the scrubbing thereof.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said enclosure comprises a slotted mesh screen adapted to extend downwardly over said slot, thereby permitting a hose nozzle head to be introduced
10 therethrough for delivery of pressurized cleaning fluid across the paint roller cover, yet effectively protect and shield the user from any back spray of paint that may exist through said slot.

15 9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said enclosure comprises a body of densely-packed bristles adapted to extend downwardly over said slot, thereby permitting a hose nozzle head to be introduced therethrough for delivery of pressurized cleaning fluid across the paint roller cover, yet effectively protect and
20 shield the user from any back spray of paint that may exist through said slot.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said collection reservoir comprises a retaining clamp slidably disposed thereon for removably securing a hose thereto, wherein said retaining clamp may be selectively slidable moved for redirecting or
5 concentrating cleaning fluid expelled from the hose over a selected area of the paint roller cover.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said collection reservoir comprises drainage spouts.

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12. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a soap or solvent dispensing mechanism for dispensing select quantities of soap, solvents or other paint-removing surfactants during the cleansing process.

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13. An apparatus for cleaning a paint roller cover, said
apparatus comprising:

an enclosure comprising an aperture dimensioned to receive the paint roller cover therethrough, wherein said enclosure
20 comprises a gutter means carried therewithin, said gutter means adapted to capture, collect, and channel into a collection reservoir at least a portion of cleaning fluid and paint

forcefully propelled from the paint roller cover as a result of a pressurized cleaning fluid forcefully directed thereover.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said enclosure is cooperatively engageable with said collection reservoir, and wherein cooperative engagement of said enclosure with said collection reservoir yields a slot through which the pressurized cleaning fluid may be directed for contacting the paint roller cover for removal of paint therefrom.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said enclosure comprises a support cradle disposed thereon, said support cradle adapted to support at least a portion of a wire support rod extending from a rotatable wire frame upon which the paint roller cover is engaged.

16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said support cradle comprises a removably securable cover comprising a conformable material disposed therewithin for effectively clamping the wire support rod therebetween and thus, provide the hands-free support of a paint roller assembly thereby.

17. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said enclosure is approximately semi-elliptically shaped.

18. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said enclosure comprises
5 a textured scrubbing surface disposed over at least a portion of the inner surface of said enclosure, said textured scrubbing surface enabling a user of said apparatus to engage and scrub the paint roller cover thereover during the cleaning process, or enable the paint roller cover to contact said textured scrubbing
10 surface during rapid rotation of the paint roller cover as a result of the pressurized cleaning fluid directed thereover, and thus enable the scrubbing thereof.

19. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said enclosure comprises
15 scrubbing bristles disposed over at least a portion of the inner surface of said enclosure, said scrubbing bristles enabling a user of said apparatus to engage and scrub the paint roller cover thereover during the cleaning process, or enable the paint roller cover to contact said scrubbing bristles during rapid
20 rotation of the paint roller cover as a result of the pressurized cleaning fluid directed thereover, and thus enable the scrubbing thereof.

20. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said enclosure comprises a slotted mesh screen adapted to extend downwardly over said slot, thereby permitting a hose nozzle head to be introduced therethrough for delivery of pressurized cleaning fluid across
5 the paint roller cover, yet effectively protect and shield the user from any back spray of paint that may exist through said slot.

21. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said enclosure comprises
10 a body of densely-packed bristles adapted to extend downwardly over said slot, thereby permitting a hose nozzle head to be introduced therethrough for delivery of pressurized cleaning fluid across the paint roller cover, yet effectively protect and shield the user from any back spray of paint that may exist
15 through said slot.

22. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said collection reservoir comprises a retaining clamp slidably disposed thereon for removably securing a hose thereto, wherein said retaining
20 clamp may be selectively slidable moved for redirecting or concentrating cleaning fluid expelled from the hose over a selected area of the paint roller cover.

23. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said collection reservoir comprises drainage spouts.

24. The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising a soap or
5 solvent dispensing mechanism for dispensing select quantities of soap, solvents or other paint-removing surfactants during the cleansing process.

25. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said enclosure comprises
10 a slot formed therethrough for enabling the introduction of cleaning fluid therethrough.

26. A method of preventing reintroduction of paint and cleaning
fluid over a paint-soiled paint roller cover being cleaned
15 within a paint roller cleaning apparatus by a pressurized cleaning fluid directed thereover, said method comprising the steps of:

a. incorporating a gutter means within said paint roller cleaning apparatus;

20 b. permitting paint and cleaning fluid forcefully propelled from the paint roller cover by the pressurized cleaning fluid to be captured and collected by said gutter means; and,

c. permitting the captured and collected paint and cleaning fluid within said gutter means to drain into a collection reservoir.